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NGA Review Completed

[REDACTED] 25X1

Middle East Situation Report #39
(as of 1100 EST, 17 February 1984)

LEBANON/SYRIA 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] military activity is significantly reduced. The Druze are maintaining steady pressure on Army positions around Suq al Gharb, although there have been no attacks. The Druze may be attempting to draw Gemayel's attention to the need for an immediate political solution. The focus of Druze military activity is south toward Ad Damur. The LAF command structure appears to be incapable of calling any shots. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] Gemayel is under heavy pressure from Lebanese Forces militia and the Phalange Party to formulate some sort of cantonment agreement to guarantee the security of Christian areas in Lebanon. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] Gemayel does not want partition. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] Gemayel is leaning towards the Saudi Eight Point Plan and is anxiously awaiting Syrian reaction to the plan. [REDACTED] 25X1

Regardless of Syria's response, Gemayel will probably ask for the US reaction and for Saudi pressure on Syria to accept the Eight Point Plan. Should the Syrians agree to all or part of it, Gemayel will initiate a series of meetings to flesh out the plan. [REDACTED] 25X1

Pierre Gemayel, head of the Phalange Party, says the Phalange will accept the Hariri plan if all other parties accept it and if all provisions are adopted. [REDACTED] 25X1

The Israelis continue to express their concern about the abrogation of the 17 May agreement.

-- Coordinator of Lebanese Affairs Lubrani said yesterday "whoever thinks we can pack up and go home is out of touch with reality." [REDACTED] 25X1

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-- Israeli armored columns continue to patrol north of the Awwali River, probably as a warning to the Druze.

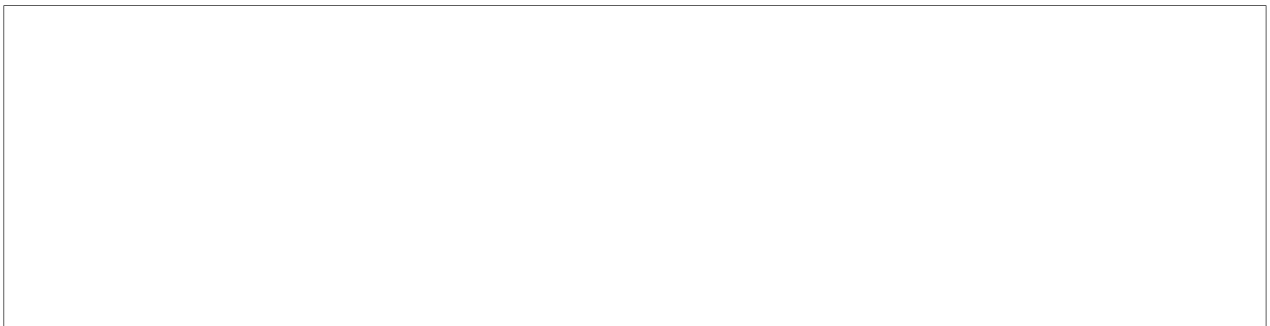
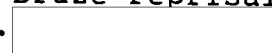
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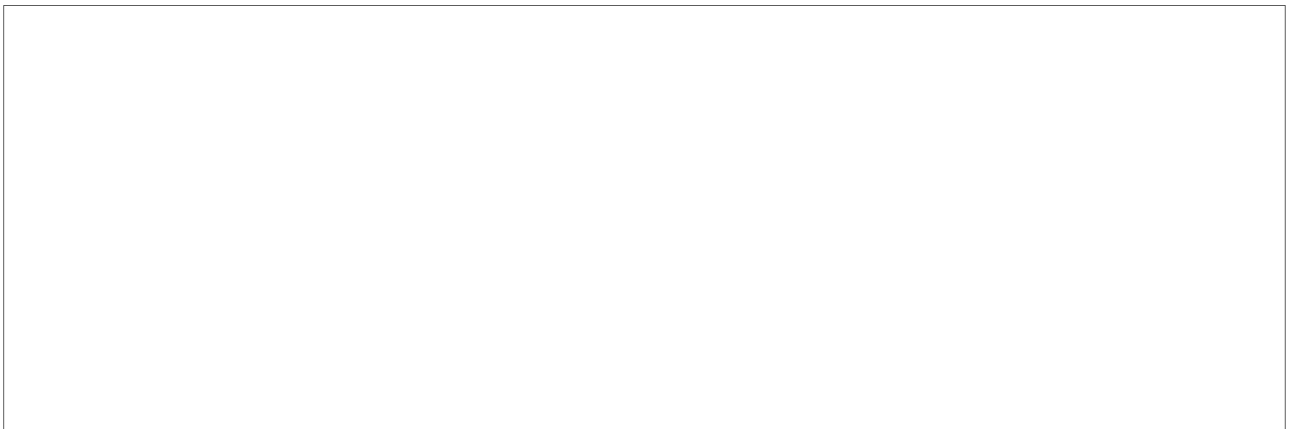


The recent discovery of a massacre of 117 Druze in the town of Kfar Matta increases the likelihood of a Druze reprisal against Christians, probably in the Kharrub.

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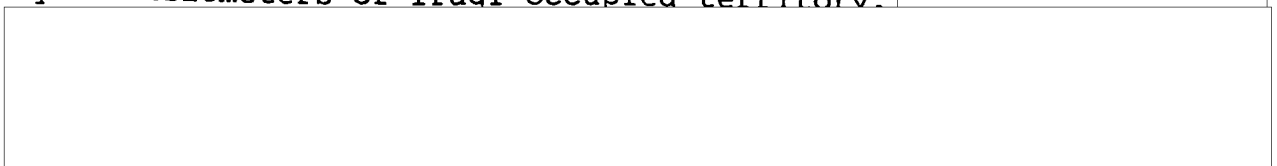
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IRAN-IRAQ WAR

Preliminary analysis of satellite photography taken this morning shows both sides reinforcing their forces in the battle area near Mehran on the Central Front. Iranian forces had not crossed the border, although Tehran claims to have taken over 40 square kilometers of Iraqi-occupied territory.

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Iranian planes raided the Iraqi town of Ali al-Gharbi, about 65 kilometers southeast of the battle area today. Baghdad announced it will continue its 7-day unilateral cessation of attacks on Iranian urban areas.

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PERSIAN GULF

Gulf press reports this morning claim Kuwait will make a new effort to mediate an end to the Iran-Iraq war. We have no information to confirm this or that Tehran is interested in mediation.

-- Saddam Hussein reaffirmed Iraq's readiness to negotiate an end to the war in messages sent today to the leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement.

-- Iran agreed earlier this week to permit a UN mission to inspect civilian sites bombed during the war. The team will also visit Iraq.

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[redacted] an aggressive security campaign is under way in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province. Saudi security forces have stepped up surveillance and arrests of foreign workers, including Americans, while religious authorities are cooperating with the police to root out "un-Islamic" behavior and are harassing US personnel at ARAMCO. [redacted] the Ministry of Oil and Petroleum has ordered ARAMCO to tighten security procedures.

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